

ARIZONA STATE SENATE

RESEARCH STAFF



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TO: MEMBERS OF THE JOINT BORDER
SECURITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DATE: January 18, 2018

SUBJECT: Joint Border Security Advisory Committee Report

Attached is the report of the Joint Border Security Advisory Committee required pursuant to A.R.S. § 41-113. This report has been distributed to the following individuals:

Governor of the State of Arizona
The Honorable Douglas A. Ducey

President of the Senate
Honorable Steve Yarbrough

Speaker of the House of Representatives
Honorable J.D. Mesnard

Members of the Joint Border Security Advisory Committee

Senator Gail Griffin, Co-Chair
Senator Sylvia Allen
Senator Steve Smith

Representative Darin Mitchell, Co-Chair
Representative J.D. Mesnard
Representative Mark Finchem

Bas Aja, Executive Vice President, Arizona Cattlemen's Association
John Halikowski, Director, Department of Transportation
Michael McGuire, Adjutant General and Director, Department of Emergency and Military Affairs
Frank Milstead, Director, Department of Public Safety
Gilbert Orrantia, Director, Department of Homeland Security
Charles Ryan, Director, Department of Corrections
Paul Penzone, Sheriff, Maricopa County
Mark Lamb, Sheriff, Pinal County
Mark Dannels, Sheriff, Cochise County
Leon Wilmot, Sheriff, Yuma County

Secretary of State
Michele Reagan

Director of the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records
Dr. Ted Hale

Senate Republican Staff
Senate Democratic Staff
Senate Research Staff
Senate Resource Center

House Majority Staff
House Democratic Staff
House Research Staff
House Chief Clerk

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GAIL GRIFFIN
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Arizona State Senate

COMMITTEES:

NATURAL RESOURCES, ENERGY AND
WATER, CHAIR

GOVERNMENT

RULES

December 29, 2017

Dear President Yarbrough:

I am pleased to submit the following report on the activities and conclusions of the Joint Border Security Advisory Committee (Committee). As you are aware, the Committee was created to analyze the status of our international border with Mexico, examine border crossing statistics and any related crime statistics, and to make recommendations designed to increase border security.

Through public testimony and insight from committee members in previous meetings, the Committee determined that the security of our border with Mexico is in need of significant improvement. According to Sheriff Dannels and Chief Deputy Smith of Cochise County, drug and human trafficking along the border has had a detrimental effect on the safety and wellbeing of Arizona citizens in the region. With the federal government currently unable to effectively utilize the resources of the Border Patrol, the responsibility of securing our border has been increasingly placed on local law enforcement.

To assist with the continuing efforts of local law enforcement, the Committee considered a proposal by Sheriff Dannels on December 12, 2017 to disburse the remaining \$55,633.94 in the Border Security Trust Fund (Fund) to the Cochise County Sheriff's Office. Chief Deputy Smith explained that the funds would be primarily used for the acquisition of additional X80 BuckEye camera kits. In his presentation to the Committee, Chief Deputy Smith illustrated the efficacy of the cameras, which have led to an increase in felony arrests, seized marijuana, and an overall reduction in drug trafficking along the border in Cochise County. Chief Deputy Smith emphasized that the cameras have been an invaluable asset in the endeavor to enhance border security. During the December 12, 2017 meeting, the Committee approved the disbursement of remaining funds to the Cochise County Sheriff's Office.

The Committee recognizes, however, that enhancing border security remains a continuing effort. The success of local law enforcement in Cochise County has driven drug traffickers to less secure regions of Arizona, or even other states. Furthermore, the trend of marijuana legalization in the U.S. has caused drug traffickers to move a higher volume of narcotics like heroin across the border. Knowing this, **the Legislature should continue efforts to secure our southern border and protect Arizona citizens.** However, due to the difficulty of getting a quorum for this Committee and with remaining monies in the Fund now disbursed, I am recommending that:

- The Legislature adopt legislation that repeals the Joint Border Security Advisory Committee and the Border Security Advisory Committee Trust Fund (A.R.S. § 41-113). These recommendations, however, in no way inhibit the Legislature from having future discussion and action on border security issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Gail Griffin".

Gail Griffin
Senator, District 14
Arizona State Senate

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Mark Finchem".

Mark Finchem
Representative, District 11
Arizona House of Representatives

Joint Border Security Advisory Committee Report

Background

The Joint Border Security Advisory Committee (Committee) was originally established by Laws 2010, Chapter 211. Pursuant to the enacting legislation, the purpose of the Committee was to:

- take testimony and other evidence regarding the international border with Mexico;
- analyze border crossing statistics;
- analyze related crime statistics;
- make recommendations designed to increase border security; and
- make other recommendations deemed essential by the Committee.

The Committee could vote to go into executive session to take testimony or evidence it considered sensitive or confidential in nature, which if released could compromise the security or safety of law enforcement or military personnel or a law enforcement or national guard law enforcement support operation.

The Committee's membership consisted of the following:

- The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives or their designees.
- Two members of the House of Representatives who were appointed by the Speaker and two members of the Senate who were appointed by the President.
- Six members who were appointed by the Governor.

The Committee was permitted to use the services of legislative staff as required. Committee members were not eligible to receive compensation for committee activities, with the exception of receiving compensation for reimbursement of expenses pursuant to statute. The Committee was to be repealed on January 1, 2015

Laws 2011, Chapter 309 repealed the Committee and reestablished it into permanent law. The 2011 enacting legislation kept the purpose of the Committee as established in 2010, but expanded it to include the ability to administer and manage the construction and maintenance of a secure fence along the Arizona-Mexico border line located on private, state or federal property, if permitted.

Additionally, the 2011 legislation made the following changes to the membership of the Committee:

- The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives or their designees, as nonvoting members.
- Two members of the House appointed by the Speaker and two members of the Senate appointed by the President, as nonvoting members.
- Six members appointed by the Governor.
- A county sheriff from a county with a population of more than three million persons.
- A county sheriff from a county with a population of more than 300,000 persons but less than 600,000 persons.

- A county sheriff from a county that is located along the Arizona-Mexico border with a population of more than 100,000 persons but less than 150,000 persons.
- A county sheriff from a county that is located along the Arizona-Mexico Border and has a population of at least 150,000 persons but less than 600,000 persons.

Laws 2014, Chapter 229 repeals the Committee on July 1, 2020.

The Committee is required to submit a written report to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate and the Governor, with a copy to the Secretary of State, beginning on November 11, 2011, and each month thereafter.

Committee Activity

The Committee met on December 12, 2017. The following presentation was made to the Committee:

- Use of Border Security Trust Fund Monies to Enhance Border Security – Sheriff Mark Dannels/Chief Deputy Thad Smith, Cochise County Sheriff's Office (presentation attached).

During the December 12, 2017 meeting, the Committee made the following motions:

- Pursuant to A.R.S. § 41-113, the Joint Border Security Advisory Committee authorizes the State Treasurer to disburse from the Border Security Trust Fund the amount of \$55,633.94 to the Cochise County Sheriff's Office for the purpose of enhancing border security as specified in the Office's request letter dated December 4, 2017.
- Recommending to the full Legislature the adoption of legislation that repeals A.R.S. § 41-113 repealing the Joint Border Security Advisory Committee and the Border Security Trust Fund.
- Directing Staff to take down the Joint Border Security Advisory Committee website.

Please refer to Appendix A for the Cochise County applications, Committee agenda, minutes and handouts.

APPENDIX A:

December 12, 2017

Applications, agenda, minutes and handouts

Mark Dannels
Sheriff

Thad Smith
Chief Deputy

Office of the Sheriff

Cochise County



December 4, 2017

Border Security Advisory Committee
1700 West Washington St.
Phoenix, Arizona 85007-2890

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Cochise County Sheriff's Office respectfully requests \$55,633.94 to purchase equipment to be utilized by a specialty unit in an effort to combat, reduce and ultimately eradicate illegal human and drug smuggling in our communities.

The request is in reference to the Border Security Trust Fund to be utilized to construct and maintain a virtual or physical fence to secure the State of Arizona's borders.

I. SITUATION

A. General Situation

Cochise County Arizona is 6,125 square miles and shares 83 miles of international border with the Republic of Mexico. Cochise County has a significant history of smuggling activity dating back to the 1880's which continues to this day. The implementation of "Hold the Line" in Texas and "Gatekeeper" in California by the Federal Government in 1994 created a funnel, pushing human and drug trafficking through Cochise County. The surge of illegal aliens resulted in increased criminal activity in Cochise County such as home invasions, robberies, burglaries, auto theft, and property damage. Illegal aliens are also frequent victims of robbery, sexual assault and kidnapping for ransom. In addition to the victimization of the illegal aliens, they tend to underestimate the rigors of journey and weather, creating innumerable cases of dehydration, hypothermia and death.

Another significant law enforcement and national concern is the possibility of the intrusion of terrorist through our porous border with the Republic of Mexico.

B. Terrain/Weather

Cochise County is comprised of several different climate zones, ranging from high desert grassland to pine covered mountains. There are six mountain ranges within Cochise County of varying elevations, the tallest being over 9700 feet, with large flat valleys between the ranges. The average temperature in Cochise County ranges from a high of 95 degrees in June & July to 25 degrees in January and February. Although those are the averages, temperatures frequently climb over 115 degrees in the summer and into single digits during the winter nights, especially in the higher elevations. A rainy season, called “monsoons” from June through September has torrential rains, thunderstorms, hail, high winds and lightning. Exposure to these weather and terrain elements result in numerous illegal alien fatalities each year.

C. Criminal Element

There are several smuggling organizations operating on both sides of the international border. As security along the international border has been strengthened by the United States Border Patrol the smuggling organizations are working harder to circumvent the increased security measures. Possibly because of the increased effort they are more resistant to apprehension. Their reluctance has manifested as an increase in assaults of law enforcement and high-speed pursuits. It is common for smugglers to utilize encrypted radios and cellular telephones to communicate. Frequently the mules, smugglers carrying the marijuana or other contraband, are escorted by scouts. It is not uncommon to encounter scouts which are armed and utilizing body armor. When smugglers become aware they’ve been detected by law enforcement they try to flee back to Mexico which sometimes results in high speed pursuits that endanger that endangers not only those involved but unsuspecting citizens, as well.

D. Friendly Fire

There are two international Ports of Entry in Cochise County located in Douglas & Naco, AZ. The United State Border Patrol has three stations located in Douglas, Naco and Willcox, AZ. In addition to the Arizona Department of Public Safety there are seven municipal police departments within the County. The Federal Bureau of Investigation, Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Drug Enforcement Agency all operate within Cochise County. United States Army Installation Fort Huachuca, located in Sierra Vista AZ, has both military police and Department of Defense security police. The Sheriff’s Office also

works cooperatively with the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office, Graham County Sheriff's Office, Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office in New Mexico and the Mexican Consoler's Office.

II. MISSION

The overall mission of the Cochise County Sheriff's Office in the fight against illegal human and drug trafficking is to detect and apprehend drug smugglers and their contraband, in addition to seizing undocumented aliens by coordinating with the appropriate federal partners; to deter criminal activity associated with those smuggling operations and to impair the drug trafficking organizations ability to utilize the roadways within Cochise County. Our mission includes reducing the victimization of illegal aliens by these organizations.

III. CONCEPT / EXECUTION

The federal government, specifically the United State Border Patrol, is charged with the security of the international border. Utilizing the resources at their disposal, Border Patrol has done a good job installing a combination of a physical and virtual fence to deter illegal entry into the United States. Unfortunately, while getting better, the Border Patrol still doesn't have control of the border, which means human and drug trafficking is an ongoing problem in Cochise County.

The Cochise County Sheriff's Office is charged with protecting our citizens and those passing through our jurisdiction, therefore the daily penetration of the 83-mile section of the international border we share with Mexico by human and drug trafficking organizations in furtherance of their criminal enterprise and the ancillary criminal activity which occurs in Cochise County is our responsibility and requires a response.

Every year, the citizens of Cochise County are victims of burglaries, thefts and property damage by either smugglers themselves or undocumented illegal aliens entering the county to find work. Occasionally, more significant crimes occur such as homicide, home invasions, sexual assaults and assaults on law enforcement.

The Cochise County Sheriff's Office has a unit specifically assigned to combat these crimes. It is the Southeast Arizona Border Region Enforcement Team, SABRE, in conjunction with our Ranch Patrol team. They are an eight-person team comprised of 5 Sheriff's deputies, 2 Arizona Department of Public Safety Officers and a National Guard Analyst.

In November of 2016 the Sheriff's Office received funding from the Border Security Advisory Committee for a virtual fence system. We utilized the funds to purchase 50 Buckeye cameras and additional support equipment. We identified a 42-square mile operational area to focus our efforts. The area covers about 14 miles of the international border and extends 3 miles north from the border.

Since January of 2017 the SABRE team, utilizing the Buckeye Camera system has achieved the following:

Felony Drug Arrest – 37
Conviction Rate – 100%
Years of Incarceration – 69 (1 Pending)
LBS of Marijuana - 3998.70 LBS
Mules Buckeye Pictures - 62
UDA Buckeye Pictures – 393

In addition to the successful results highlighted above, we have been able to gather intelligence about human and drug smuggling patterns which may have gone undetected or taken considerably longer to establish. The camera system is flexible and can be changed to address the actual operational situation instead of fixed virtual fence systems such as camera poles.

The Buckeye camera system is a very efficient and effective tool which enables the 8-person Cochise County Sheriff's Office SABRE team to significantly impact human and drug trafficking operations. This system enables us to monitor a large area and respond to current, confirmed activity as opposed to undirected patrols, hoping to stumble into a smuggling operation.

IV. BUDGET

The Cochise County Sheriff's Office respectfully requests the following equipment to expand and enhance our current Buckeye Camera system. The additional equipment will assist the Sheriff's Office in meeting our mission of the protection of life and property; the preservation of peace, order, and safety and fortifying the states security against illegal entry into our country.

Administration/Logistics/ Budget Request	Narrative Justification (Computation of Items)	Funding Request
Equipment Amplifier	3 Watt 900 MHz Amplifier, 6 @ \$475	\$2850.00
Equipment DC Power Injector 902-928 MHz	DC Power Injector 902-928 MHz, 6 @ \$83.00	\$498.00
Equipment 900 MHz Outdoor filter	900 MHz Outdoor filter, 6 @ \$179.47	\$1076.82
Safety Equipment Snake Gaiters	Snake Gaiters, 10 @ \$50.00	\$500.00
Equipment X80 Buckeye Camera Kit	X80 Buckeye Camera Kit, 30 @ \$899.00	\$26,970.00
Equipment Camera Battery	UB 1290 Battery, 70 @ \$35.00	\$2450.00
Equipment 3 Element Yagi Antenna (8in)	3 Element Yagi (8in), 30 @ \$45.00	\$1350.00
Equipment Rodent Shield 25ft	Rodent Shield 25ft, 30 @ \$58.00	\$1740.00
Equipment Cellular Yagi Antenna	Cellular Yagi Antenna, 6 @ \$140.00	\$840.00
Equipment Garmin Rino 755T	Garmin Rino 755T 6 @ \$649.99	\$3899.94
Equipment Motorola Tactical ear kit	Motorola Tactical ear kit, 16 @ \$69.95	\$1119.20
Equipment X80 Echo Kit	X80 Echo Kit, 10 @ \$459.00	\$4590.00
Safety Equipment Camelbak hydration pack H.A.W.G.	Camelbak hydration pack H.A.W.G., 10 @ \$132.99	\$1329.90
Equipment Binoculars	Swarovski binoculars 10X50 (EL 50) 1 @ \$3110.00	\$3110.00
Estimated Shipping & Taxes	Taxes: \$2930.08 Shipping: \$380	\$3,310.08
TOTAL		\$55,633.94

V. CONCLUSION

If approved the Cochise County Sheriff's Office will employ the above listed equipment to continue to combat human and drug smuggling into the State of Arizona and our nation. The equipment will enhance our proven ability to interdict human and drug trafficking organizations. It will help the Sheriff's Office and our partners to improve state & national security and improve the quality of life in Cochise County.

Mark J. Dannels
Sheriff

Thad J. Smith
Chief Deputy

Office of the Sheriff Cochise County



Arizona State Senate
1700 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, Az. 85007

November 27, 2017

Attn: Senator Gail Griffin, Co-Chair Border Security Trust Fund

The Cochise County Sheriff's Office respectfully requests 55,633.94 from the Border Security Trust Fund to purchase surveillance equipment utilized to aid in the apprehension of illegal border crossers and enhance the overall security of the United States International border within Cochise County.

In 2016, the Sheriff's Office began development of an electronic surveillance system (virtual fence) providing 24-hour/7-day a week surveillance of areas along the international border which have been utilized as illicit smuggling routes for decades. Our efforts thus far have proven to be quite successful and have led to the arrest and conviction of thirty-seven drug smugglers who otherwise would not have been detected or apprehended.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MJD", written over a horizontal line.

Mark J. Dannels, Sheriff

ARIZONA STATE LEGISLATURE

INTERIM MEETING NOTICE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

JOINT BORDER SECURITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Date: Tuesday, December 12, 2017

Time: 10:00 A.M.

Place: SHR 109

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Minutes of November 9, 2015 and December 12, 2016
4. Opening Remarks
5. Presentation-Use of Border Security Trust Fund Monies to Enhance Border Security
 - Cochise County Sheriff's Office, Sheriff Mark Dannels
6. Discussion on additional efforts to secure the border
7. Presentation-Request for the Disbursement of Border Security Trust Fund Monies
 - Cochise County Sheriff's Office, Sheriff Mark Dannels
8. Public Testimony
9. Discussion
10. Possible Vote to Grant Monies from the Border Security Trust Fund
11. Comments and Committee Recommendations
12. Adjourn

Members:

Senator Gail Griffin, Co-Chair
Senator Sylvia Allen
Senator Steve Smith
Bas Aja
Sheriff Mark Dannels
John Halikowski
Sheriff Mark Lamb
Major General Michael McGuire

Representative Darin Mitchell, Co-Chair
Speaker Javan D. Mesnard
Representative Mark Finchem
Frank Milstead
Gilbert Orrantia
Sheriff Paul Penzone
Charles Ryan
Sheriff Leon Wilmot

12/4/17

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For questions regarding this agenda, please contact Senate Research Department.

Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting the Senate Secretary's Office: (602) 926-4231 (voice). Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

ARIZONA STATE LEGISLATURE

JOINT BORDER SECURITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting
December 12, 2017
10:00 a.m., Senate Hearing Room109

Members Present:

Senator Gail Griffin Co-Chair
Senator Sylvia Allen
Senator Steve Smith
Bas Aja
Sheriff Mark Dannels
Sheriff Mark Lamb
Major General Michael McGuire

Representative Mark Finchem
Frank Milstead
Charles Ryan
Sheriff Leon Wilmot

Members Excused:

John Halikowski
Speaker Javan D. Mesnard

Representative Darin Mitchell, Co-Chair
Gilbert Orrantia
Sheriff Paul Penzone

Staff:

Jeffrey Ong, Senate Research Staff
Jason Theodorou, House Research Staff

Co-Chairman Griffin called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. and attendance was taken.

OPENING REMARKS

Senator Griffin distributed handouts to the Committee members entitled "More Border Patrol agents needed to curb opioid crisis" (Attachment A), "BP agents arrest Mesa couple for smuggling" (Attachment B) and "Fentanyl seizures at the border jump dramatically" (Attachment C).

Senator Griffin gave opening remarks and asked the members of the Committee to introduce themselves.

Mark Dannels, Cochise County Sheriff, introduced himself and Thad Smith, Chief Deputy, Cochise County Sheriff's Office, Tim Williams, Southern Arizona Border Regional Enforcement Supervisor, (SABRE) and John Ladd, Legacy Rancher, who will be giving today's presentations.

Sheriff Dannels gave an overview of a program entitled "Border to your Backyard" and introduced Thad Smith, Chief Deputy, Cochise County Sheriff's Office to give the first presentation.

PRESENTATION–USE OF BORDER SECURITY TRUST FUND MONIES TO ENHANCE BORDER SECURITY

Cochise County Sheriff's Office, Sheriff Mark Dannels

Thad Smith, Chief Deputy, Cochise County Sheriff's Office, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Joint Border Security Advisory Committee 2017 Review" (Attachment D) and answered questions posed by the Committee.

Chief Deputy Smith continued with the PowerPoint presentation and answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

Senator Griffin offered comments.

Chief Deputy Smith answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

Senator Griffin offered additional comments.

Sheriff Mark Dannels introduced John W. Ladd, Legacy Rancher.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

John W. Ladd, Legacy Rancher, testified in support of the SABRE Team and gave an overview of the Virtual Fence and answered questions posed by the Committee.

Senator Griffin offered comments.

Mr. Ladd continued with his testimony and answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

Senator Griffin offered additional comments.

Mr. Ladd offered additional comments.

DISCUSSION ON ADDITIONAL EFFORTS TO SECURE THE BORDER

Senator Griffin called for discussion.

PRESENTATION–REQUEST FOR THE DISBURSEMENT OF BORDER SECURITY TRUST FUND MONIES

Sheriff Dannels distributed a letter dated November 27, 2017 addressed to Senator Gail Griffin, Co-Chair, Border Security Trust Fund (Attachment D) and a proposal letter dated December 4, 2017 addressed to Border Security Advisory Committee (Attachment E) and offered comments.

Senator Griffin offered additional comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Senator Griffin stated if there are no corrections, without objection, the Joint Border Security Advisory Committee minutes of November 9, 2015 and December 12, 2016 will stand approved as distributed.

DISCUSSION

Senator Griffin called for discussion on the proposal. However, no discussion was offered from the Committee.

POSSIBLE VOTE TO GRANT MONIES FROM THE BORDER SECURITY TRUST FUND

Senator Griffin stated that there are two motions to be voted on.

Motion #1

Senator Smith moved "Pursuant to, and in accordance with A.R.S. 41-113, I recommend that the Joint Border Security Advisory Committee authorize the State Treasurer to disburse from the Border Security Trust Fund the amount of \$55,633.94 to the Cochise County Sheriff's Office for the purpose of enhancing border security as specified in that Office's request letter dated December 4, 2017."

Sheriff Mark Dannels stated as the author of this proposal and the Sheriff of Cochise County he would like to recuse himself from the vote.

Senator Griffin stated so moved.

The motion CARRIED with a roll call vote of 6-3-1 (Attachment 1).

Senator Griffin stated 6 ayes, 3 not voting, 1 abstention, authorizes the disbursement of the monies to the Cochise County Sheriff's Office.

COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Senator Griffin called for any comments. No comments were offered.

Motion #2

Senator Smith moved that "the Joint Border Security Advisory Committee does the following:

Recommend to the full Legislature the adoption of legislation that repeals A.R.S. 41-113 establishing the Joint Border Security Advisory Committee and the Border Security Trust Fund; and Direct staff to take down the Joint Border Security Advisory Committee website."

DISCUSSION

Senator Griffin stated that since it is difficult to obtain a quorum for this Committee at times and because there is less money in the two funds this is the reason for these two motions. We fully intend to continue having meetings on this issue as previously discussed. The problems of securing the border, the drugs and the traffic still needs much attention, but we think we can have different meetings and try to find different funds to correct that. This is the reason for the two motions.

Senator Smith offered comments.

Sheriff Dannels offered comments.

Senator Griffin offered comments.

Representative Finchem offered comments.

The motion CARRIED with a roll call vote of 6-1-3 (Attachment 2).

Bas Aja and Sheriff Leon Wilmot explained their vote.

Senator Griffin stated by your vote of 6 ayes, 1 nay and 3 not voting you have voted to recommend the adoption of legislation that repeals A.R.S 41-113 and direct staff to take down the Joint Border Security Advisory Committee website.

Attached is a form noting the individual who submitted a Speaker Slip on the agenda items (Attachment F).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toy Brown
Committee Secretary

(Audio recordings and attachments are on file in the Secretary of the Senate's Office/Resource Center, Room 115. Audio archives are available at <http://www.azleg.gov>)

Fentanyl seizures at the border jump dramatically

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE
BY SARAH GRIFFIN

PHOENIX — Agents have seized 140 pounds of fentanyl at Arizona's ports of entry so far in 2017, a 600-percent increase from 2016, according to a report from United States Customs and Border Protection.

The report stated 140 pounds is enough to kill 21 million people.

Fentanyl, a synthetic opioid, is 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Shannon Scheel, director for Drug Prevention and Education for the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, said

one of the biggest components of the increase is because fentanyl can simply be purchased from the black market on the internet.

"All of these items are manufactured — that's why they're called synthetic opioids," Scheel said. "They're not grown from a heroin plant or opium poppies; these are synthetic and manufactured, so it can be easily obtained."

Beth Brady, Crime Lab director for the Department of Public Safety, said another contribution to the increase of illegal fentanyl is the low price.

"People have switched to heroin, which is cheaper," Brady said. "So now we're just seeing the next step in that pro-

cess; now people unknowingly are being given fentanyl mixed in with heroin."

Scheel said the reason heroin is laced with fentanyl is to increase the high of the person taking the drug, but the smallest amount of fentanyl can be deadly.

"It takes an amount of just a couple grains of salt to be potentially catastrophic for somebody," Brady said.

Fentanyl is sold in pharmacies in the form of a patch, spray or injection, and is prescribed to people with large amounts of pain, such as cancer patients. It's in a much lower dose and is slowly released into the patient's system throughout a 72-hour period.

EASTERN ARIZONA COURIER

A7

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2017

More Border Patrol agents needed to curb opioid crisis

Opinion

By Joe Guzzardi
columnist

The United States is in the grip of its worst heroin and opioid epidemic since the post-World War II era more than 60 years ago, according to the State Department's International Narcotics Control Report.

In 2015, more than 52,000 U.S. deaths were directly related to drug overdoses, with the majority of those involving a prescription or illicit opioid.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that since 1999, the number of overdose deaths involving opioids, including prescription opioids and heroin, has quadrupled. From 2000 to 2015, more than half a million people died from drug overdoses.

Particularly vulnerable are residents in high-poverty areas like West Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky and Los Angeles County. New Jersey Governor Christie bleakly compared opioid-overdose fatalities to terrorist attacks, saying, "We have a 9/11-scale loss every three weeks."

The Assistant Secretary for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, Ambassador William Brownfield, told reporters that domestic demand for the narcotics is insatiable and that the majority of synthetic drugs and 100

percent of all heroin are imports. Brownfield estimated that Mexico accounts for 90 to 94 percent of the heroin smuggled into the United States.

And indirectly, Mexico is responsible for helping to get highly addictive fentanyl, a synthetic opioid analgesic similar to morphine but 50 to 100 times more potent, into wide swaths of the country. China processes raw fentanyl and then ships it to Mexico, where it's processed and trafficked north.

Brownfield praised China for its cooperation with the United States to control fentanyl and 130 other new synthetic drugs but said little about Mexico's willfulness, if indeed it has any, to slow drug traffic.

The ease with which drug smugglers cross the border to enter the United States, and the most effective way to stop them, should be a top congressional immigration agenda priority. Expert witnesses have brought the crisis to the Department of Homeland Security often enough to raise ongoing red flags. And some progress has been made, but far from enough.

U.S. Border and Customs Patrol's duties takes it from the Southwest border to New York's John F. Kennedy Airport, a vast expanse for agents to combat resourceful, well-funded smugglers.

Some argue that President Donald Trump's proposed border wall would be the most efficient way to slow the

flow of drugs. Since, according to the American Public Health Association, the opioid drug epidemic has cost U.S. taxpayers about \$78.5 billion directly and indirectly, even a modest drop in drug traffic would help pay for the wall. Tax dollars not subsidizing drug rehab could be applied to the wall's construction.

But while wall prototypes are being designed, and congressional Democrats fight President Trump every inch of the way on his immigration agenda, more Border and Customs Patrol agents could be hired and quickly put to work.

President Trump proposed that a modest 5,000 agents be hired to supplement the existing 20,000 staff. In the name of public safety, and saving lives, Congress should get behind President Trump's request. Instead, Mississippi U.S. Rep. Benjie Thompson, the House Homeland Security's ranking Democrat, said that he sees no clear need to hire and deploy new agents. Thompson must not read his own committee's reports.

Drug addiction goes on and so, too, does business as usual in Congress. Anything President Trump says is immediately belittled, often from both sides of the aisle, even when he's trying to save Americans from drug addiction and the deaths that may follow.

Copyright Joe Guzzardi. Guzzardi is a member of the Society for American Baseball Research and the Internet Baseball Writers Association of America.

BP agents arrest Mesa couple for smuggling

TUCSON — Tucson Sector Border Patrol agents from the Nogales Station detained a Mesa couple after finding a Mexican man in their vehicle's trunk during a secondary inspection at the Interstate 19 immigration checkpoint near Amado, Arizona, on Wednesday night.

Agents referred the 21-year-old female driver a Chevy Cavalier for additional inspection after a Border Patrol canine alerted to an odor it was trained to detect coming from the vehicle. When agents opened the vehicle's trunk, they discovered a 26-year-old Mexican national inside.

Agents arrested the driver and her 22-year-old male passenger, identified as the vehicle's registered owner, for human smuggling and seized the vehicle.

The Mexican national is being processed

for immigration violations, in accordance with Tucson Sector guidelines.

Federal law allows agents to charge individuals by complaint, a method that allows the filing of charges for criminal activity without inferring guilt. An individual is presumed innocent unless and until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials welcome assistance from the community. Citizens can report suspicious activity to the Border Patrol and remain anonymous by calling 1-877-872-7435 toll free. Reporting illicit activity could result in saving someone's life.

*Submitted by Tucson Sector Border Patrol
Public Affairs*

SUNDAY DECEMBER 10, 2017 • HERALD/REVIEW

Ajo BP agents arrest illegal alien convicted of sex crime

TUCSON — Tucson Sector Border Patrol agents assigned to the Ajo Station apprehended a previously deported sex offender Wednesday afternoon for re-entering the United States illegally.

Agents working in a remote area west of Why, Arizona, encountered three Mexican nationals illegally present in the U.S. and transported them to the Ajo Station for processing. While processing a man identified as Alex Luna-Hernandez, age 29, agents learned he was convicted in Santa Barbara, California, in 2015 for "Lewd and Lascivious Acts with a Child under 14."

Luna was removed from the U.S. several years earlier after he was found guilty of

"Assault in the Second Degree with Intent to Cause Serious Physical Injury" in Kings County, New York.

Luna is currently in federal custody pending prosecution for criminal immigration violations. The two other individuals are also being processed for immigration violations.

All individuals apprehended by the Border Patrol undergo criminal history checks using biometrics to ensure illegal immigrants with criminal histories are positively identified.

*Submitted by Tucson Sector Border Patrol
Public Affairs*

Joint Border Security Advisory Committee

2017 Review



Border Security Trust Fund Grant

Background

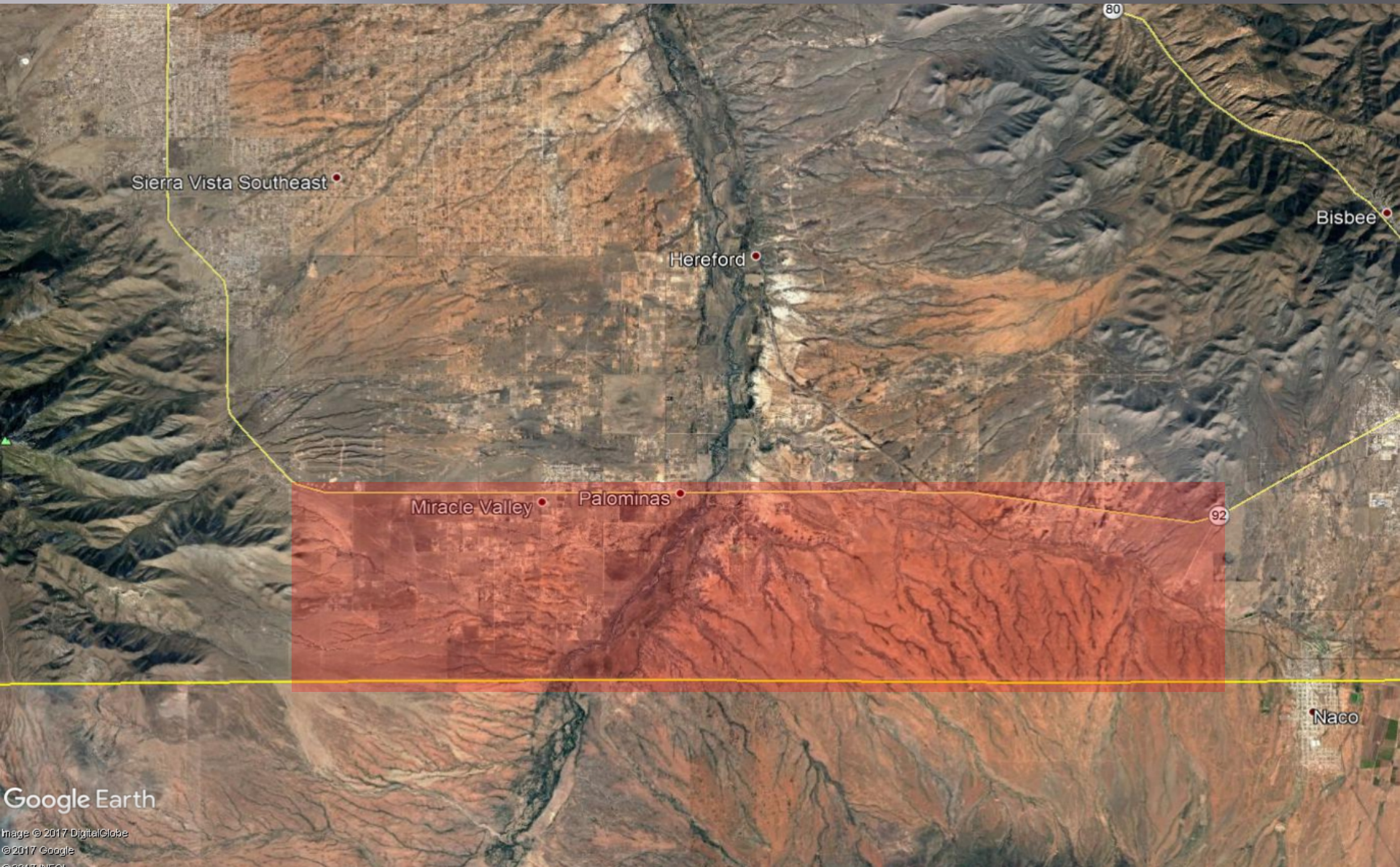
- ▣ November 9, 2015 the Cochise County Sheriff's Office was awarded \$219,211.87 from the Border Security Trust Fund to develop a Virtual Fence utilizing high and low resolution cameras, wireless networking, surveillance systems, and global positioning systems to monitor and report border incursions in a timely manner.
- ▣ Purchased the following items:
 - 50 -Buckeye Cameras and accessories (echoes, batteries, cell bases, antennas)
 - 2 - Garmin Rhino Global Positioning Systems
 - 1 - Swarovski binoculars (day time)
 - 1 - Long range Zeiss Victory DiaScope (day time)
 - 1 - Recon Remote Kit

Operation San Pedro River Valley

December 2016 to December 2017

- ▣ Operation focused on well known drug and human smuggling corridor encompassing 42 square miles of US/Mexico border (14 miles east/west, 3 miles north/south)
- ▣ Area has afforded smugglers a high rate of success
- ▣ Terrain features in this area affords smugglers cover and concealment which traditional surveillance methods are incapable of penetrating
- ▣ Rapid access to a major highway connecting the cities of Bisbee and Sierra Vista
- ▣ Exploiting public access to the BLM Riparian Area
- ▣ Affords smugglers ability to discreetly conduct counter surveillance on US Law Enforcement

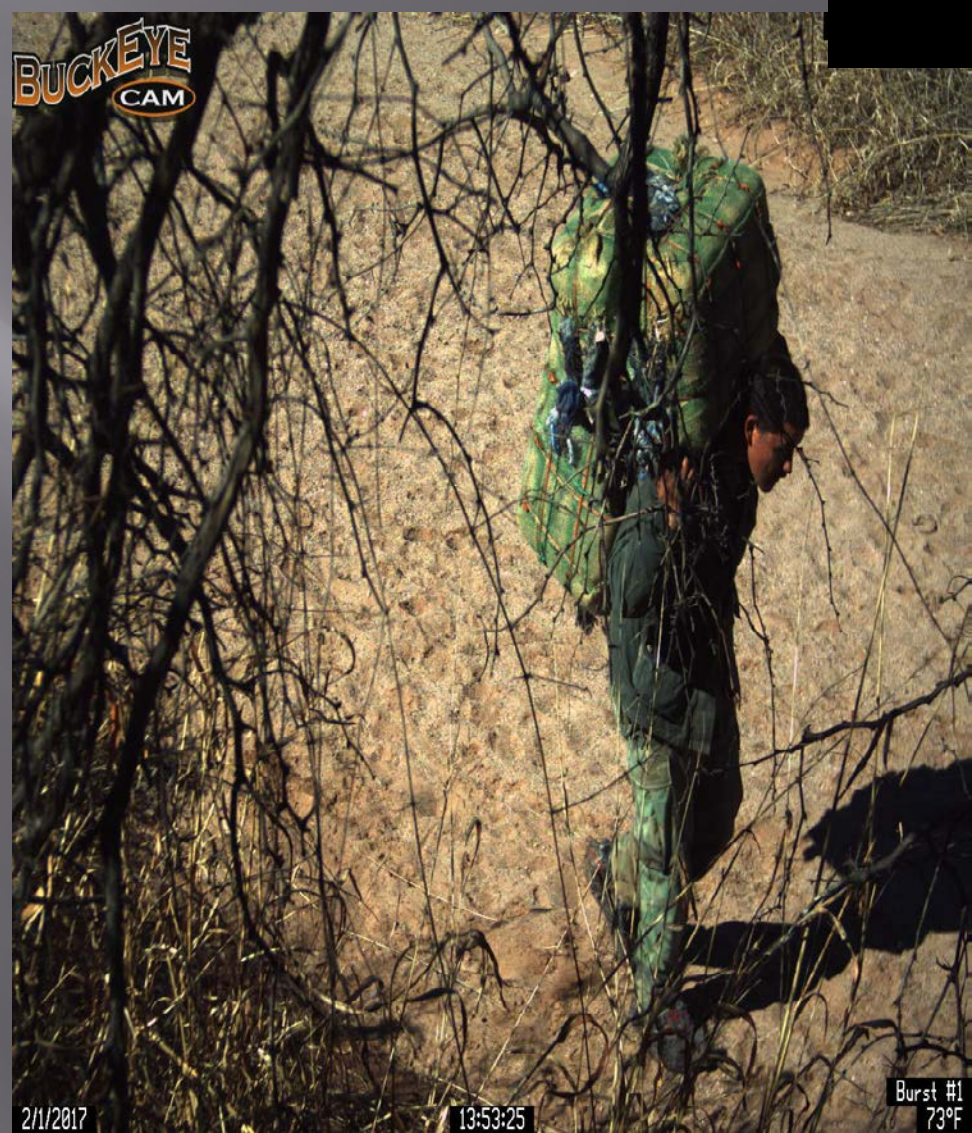
Operation San Pedro River Valley



Operation San Pedro River Valley

- ▣ January 2017 initiated development and deployment of Buckeye camera network in area of operation
- ▣ L.E. fulltime partners: AZDPS – BSF, AZNG - AZCDTF
- ▣ L.E. part time partners: USBP, HSI
- ▣ Phase 1 fully operational within 120 days
- ▣ Phase 2 commenced in May and became fully operational in August

Outcomes



Outcomes



Outcomes



Outcomes



Outcomes



1. Luis Carrizosa - Cananea Mexico
2. Aaron Colin - Mexico City
3. Victor Ortega - Cananea Mexico
4. Damian Ortega - Cananea Mexico

Outcomes

BUCKEYE
CAM



2/17/2017

8:14:36

Burst #1
50°F

Outcomes



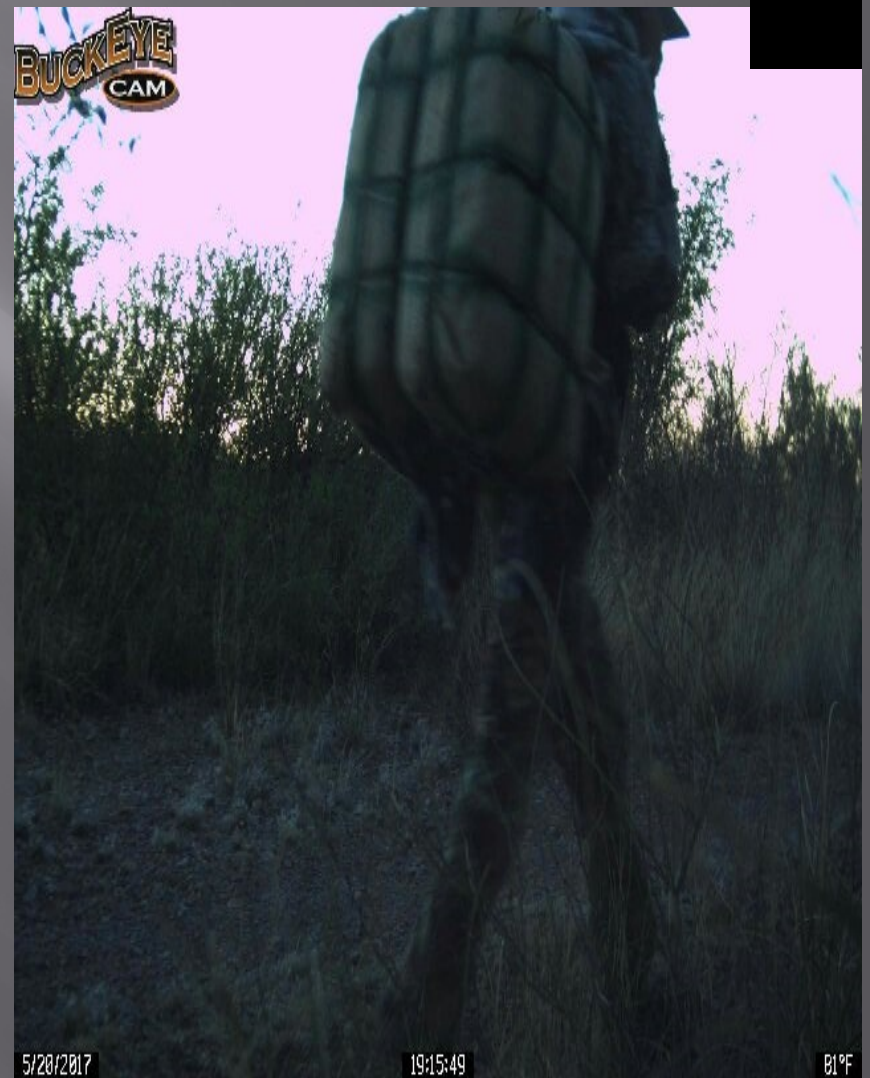
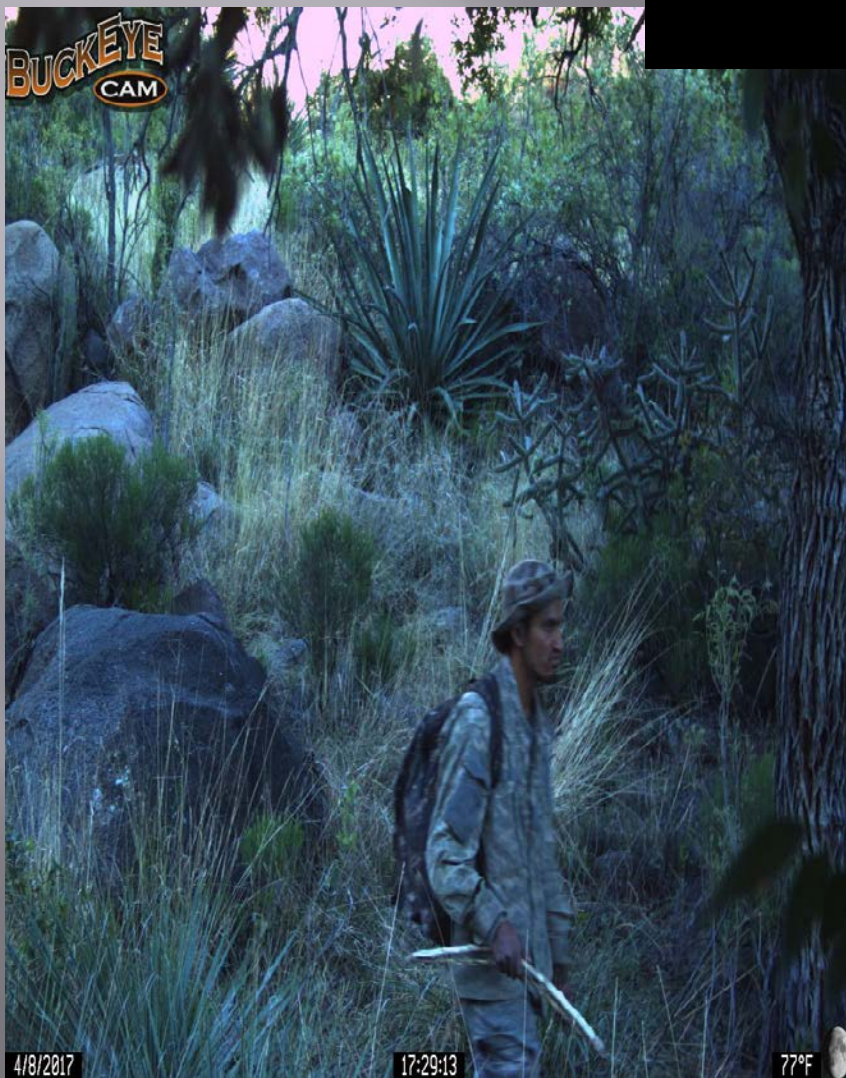
Outcomes



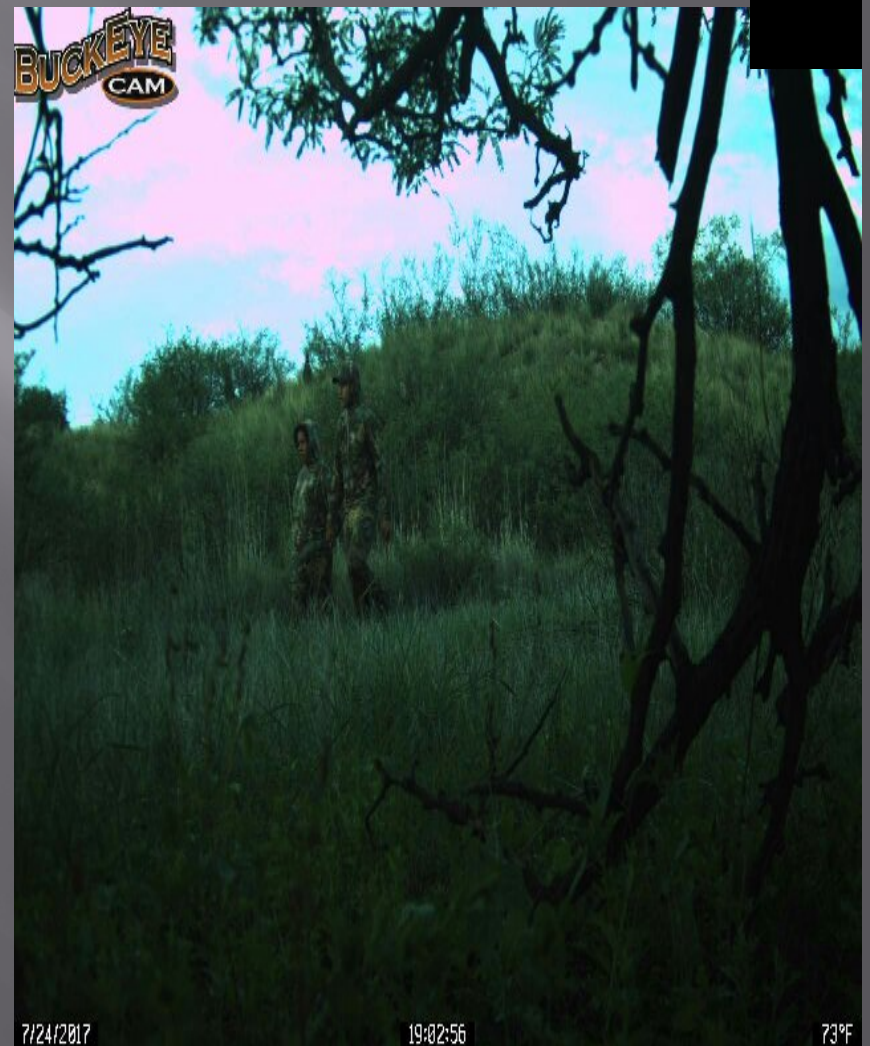
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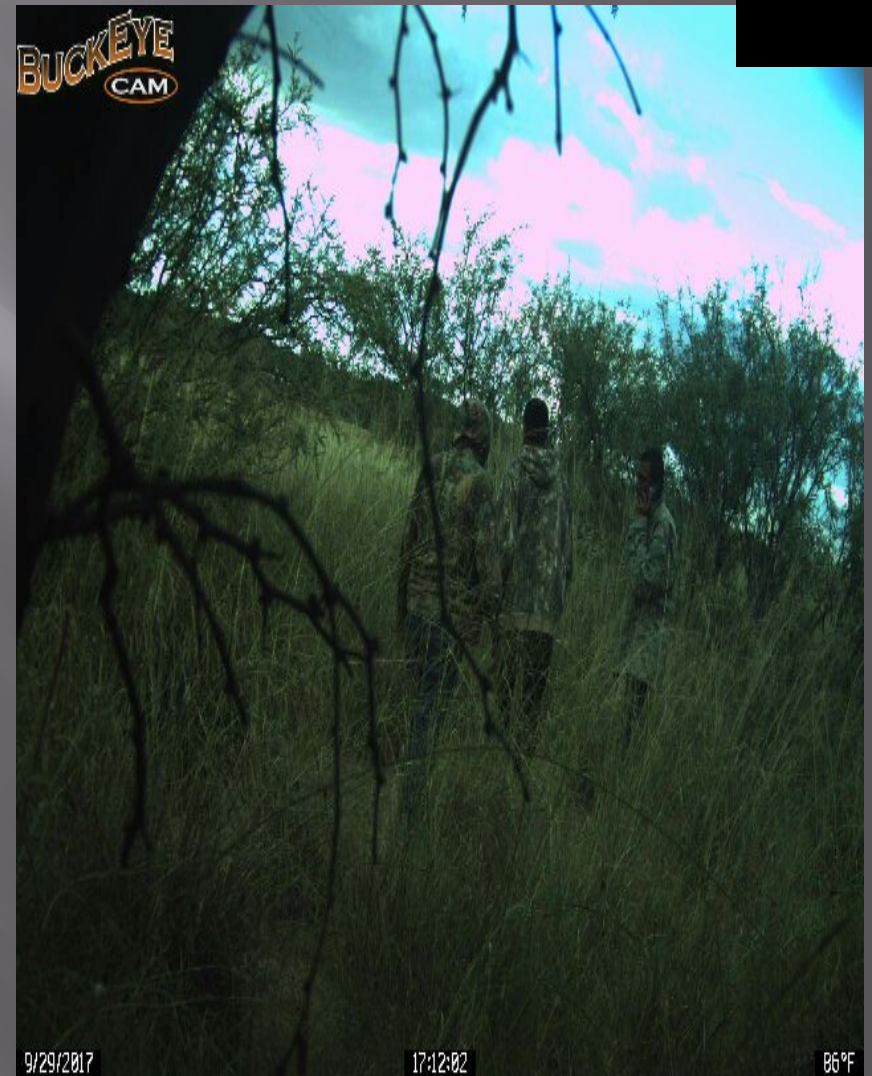
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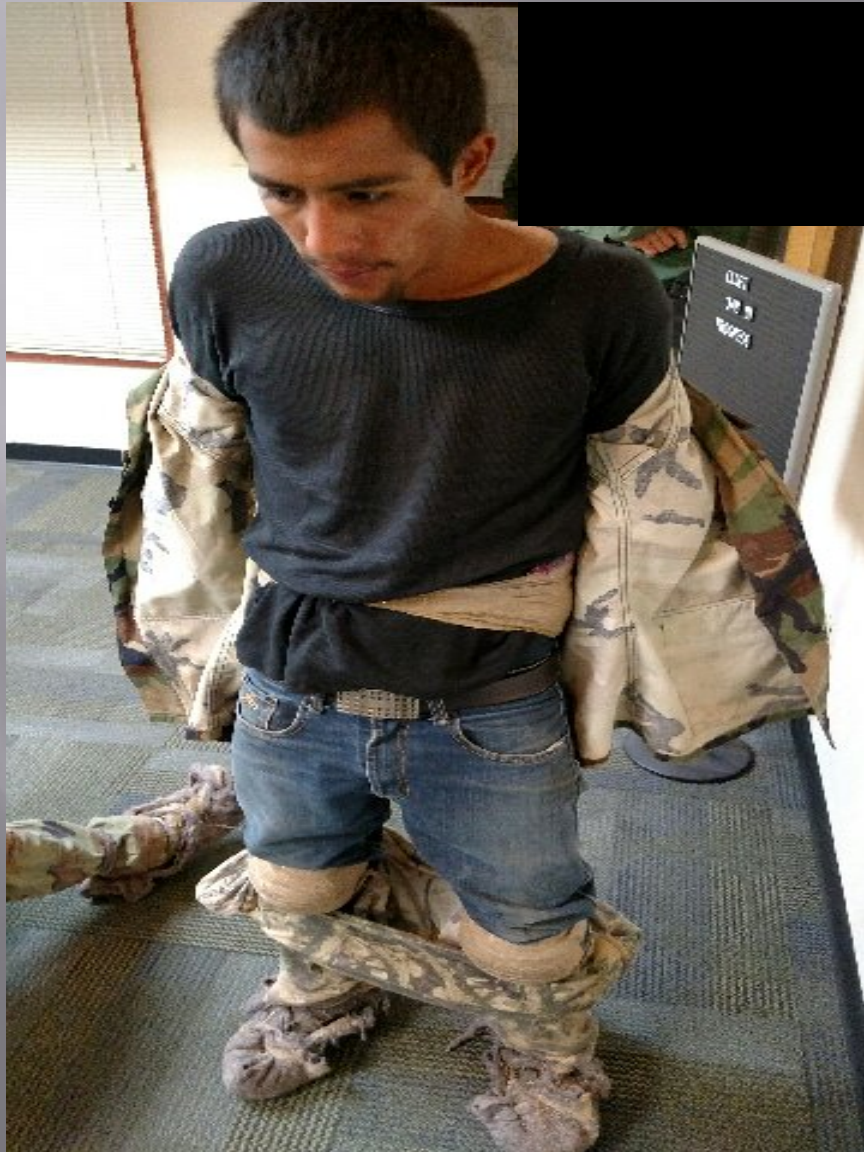
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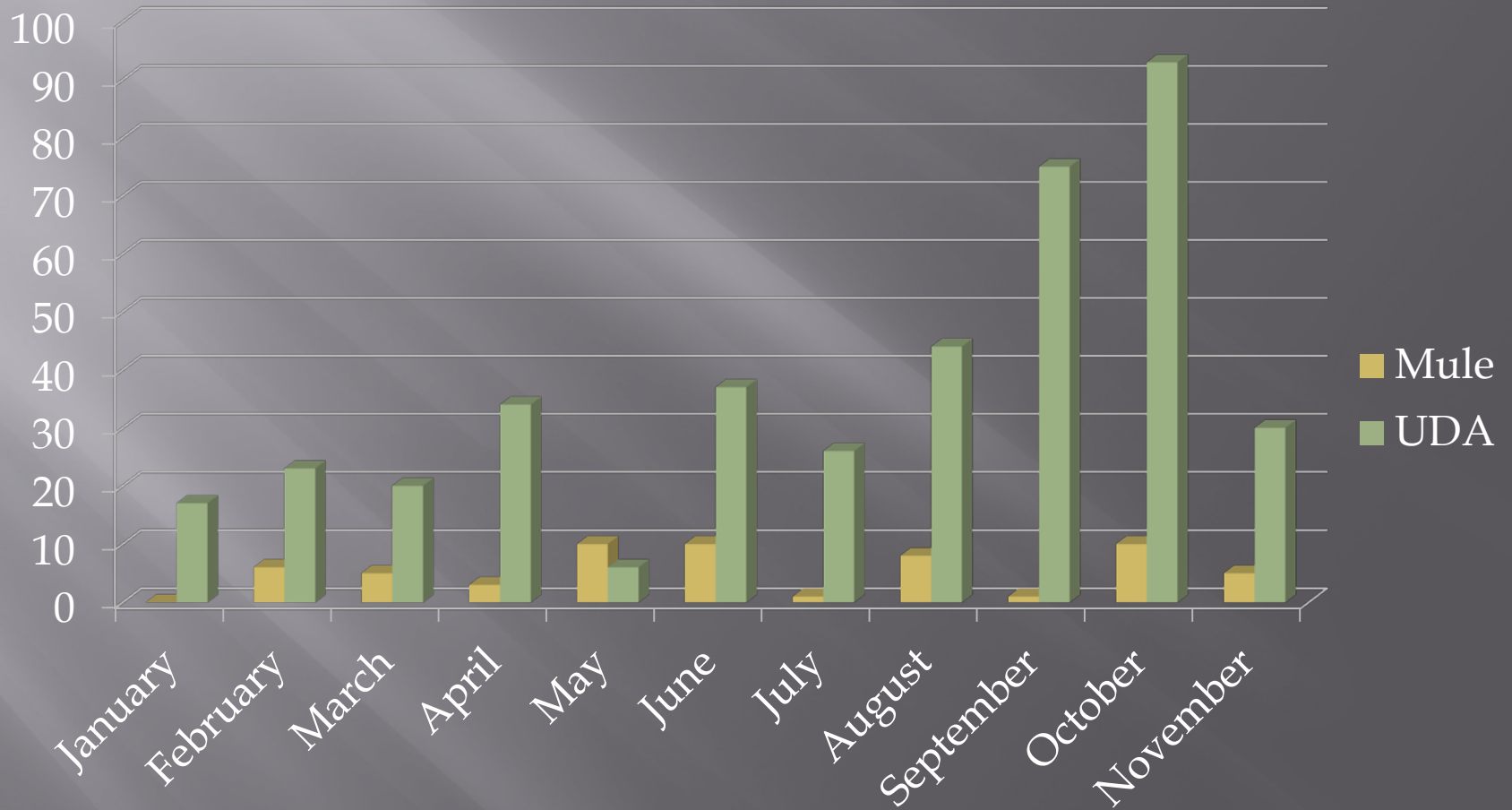
Outcomes



Outcomes

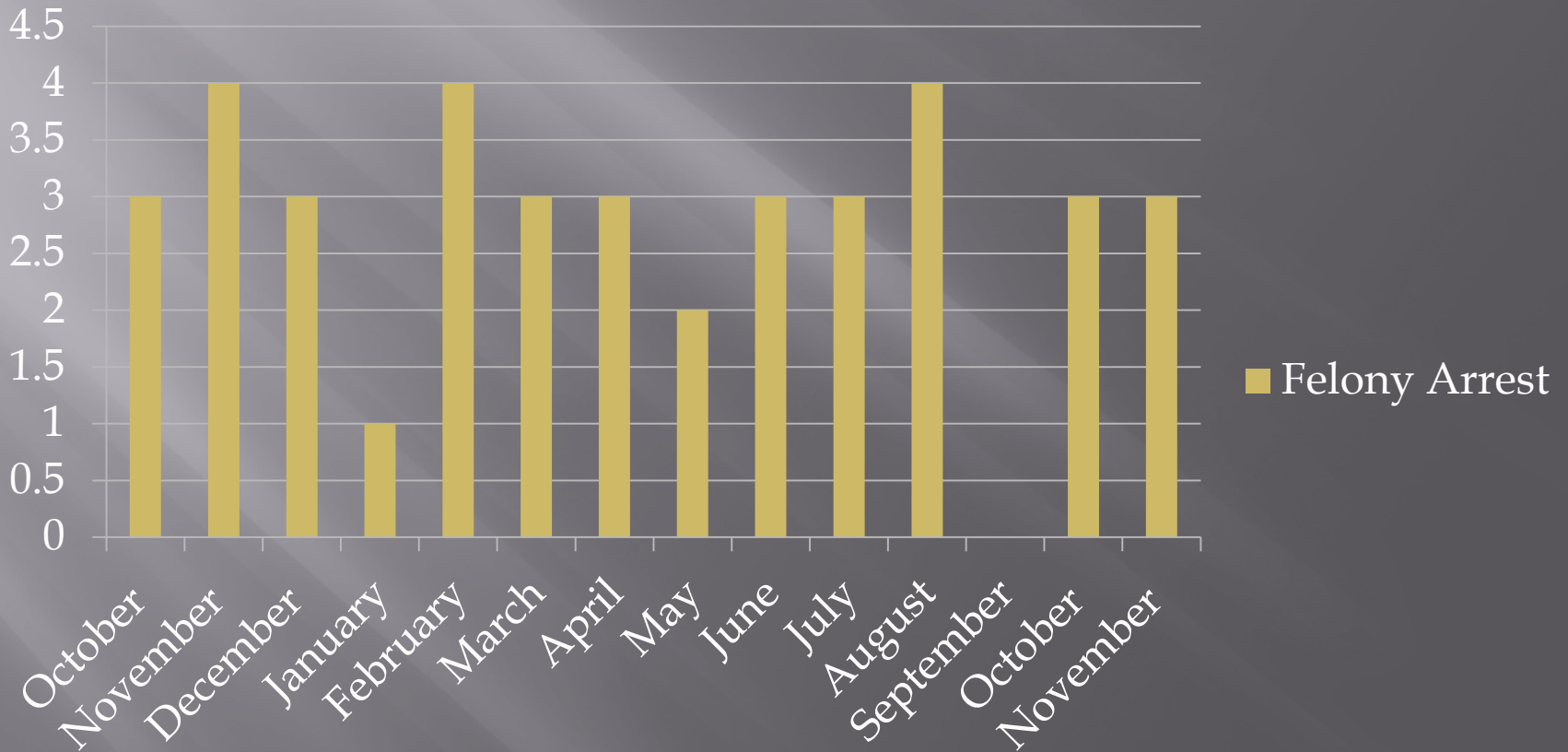


Monthly Numbers



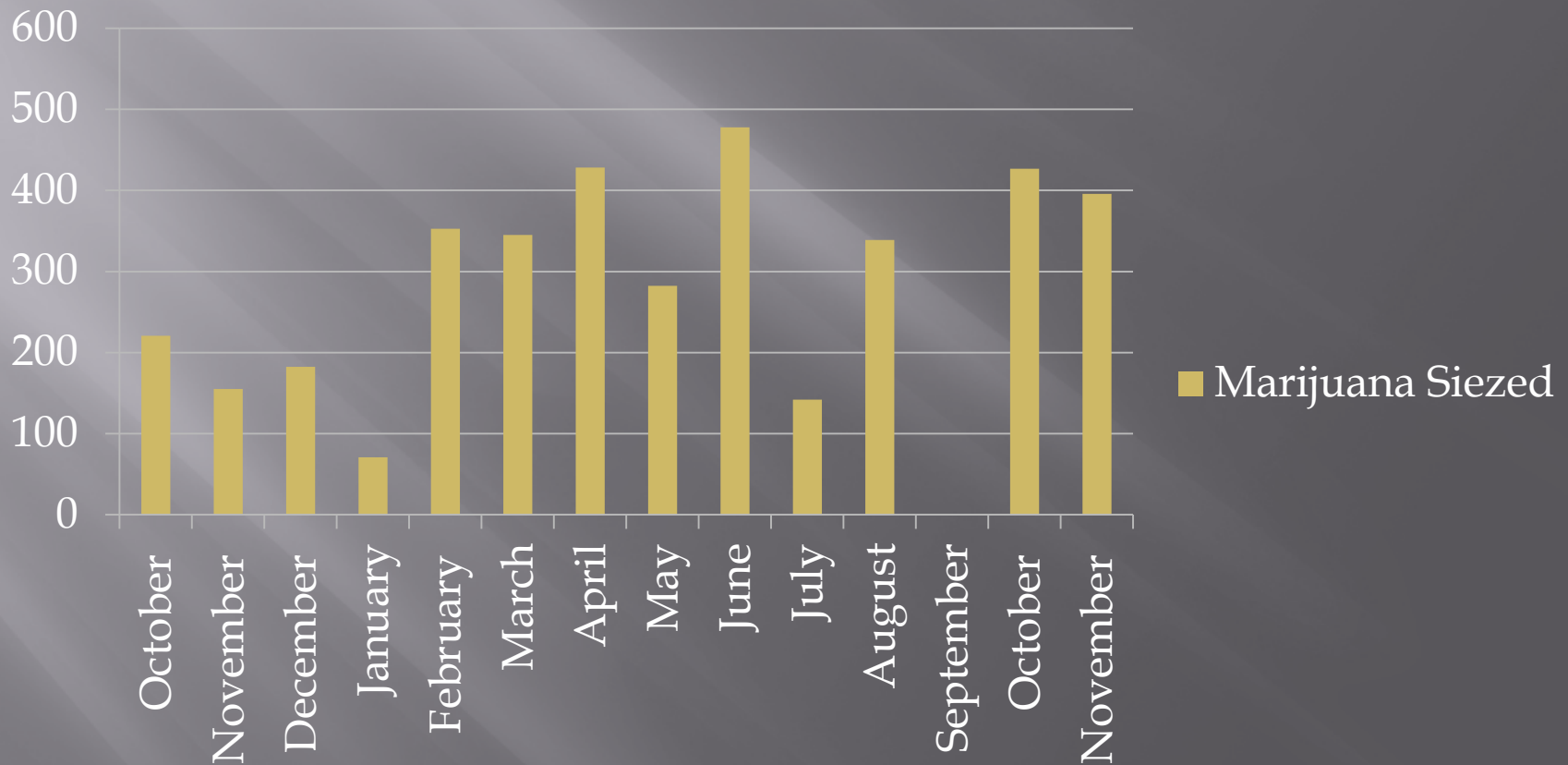
Comparative Statistics

Felony Arrest



Comparative Statistics

Marijuana Seized



Total SABRE Statistics

- ▣ Felony Drug Arrest – 37
- ▣ Conviction Rate – 100%
- ▣ Years of Incarceration – 69 (1 Pending)
- ▣ LBS of Marijuana - 3998.70 LBS
- ▣ Mules Buckeye Pictures – 62 (59.6% apprehension)
- ▣ UDA Buckeye Pictures – 393

Trends

- ▣ Significantly increased scouting efforts
- ▣ Changed drug smuggling routes
- ▣ Flooded previous drug routes with illegal alien traffic
- ▣ Drug mules are now being recruited from outside the local area
- ▣ “Blacklist” routes resulting in interdiction
- ▣ Drug mules no longer trust their counter surveillance partners

Buckeye Surveillance Network Highlights

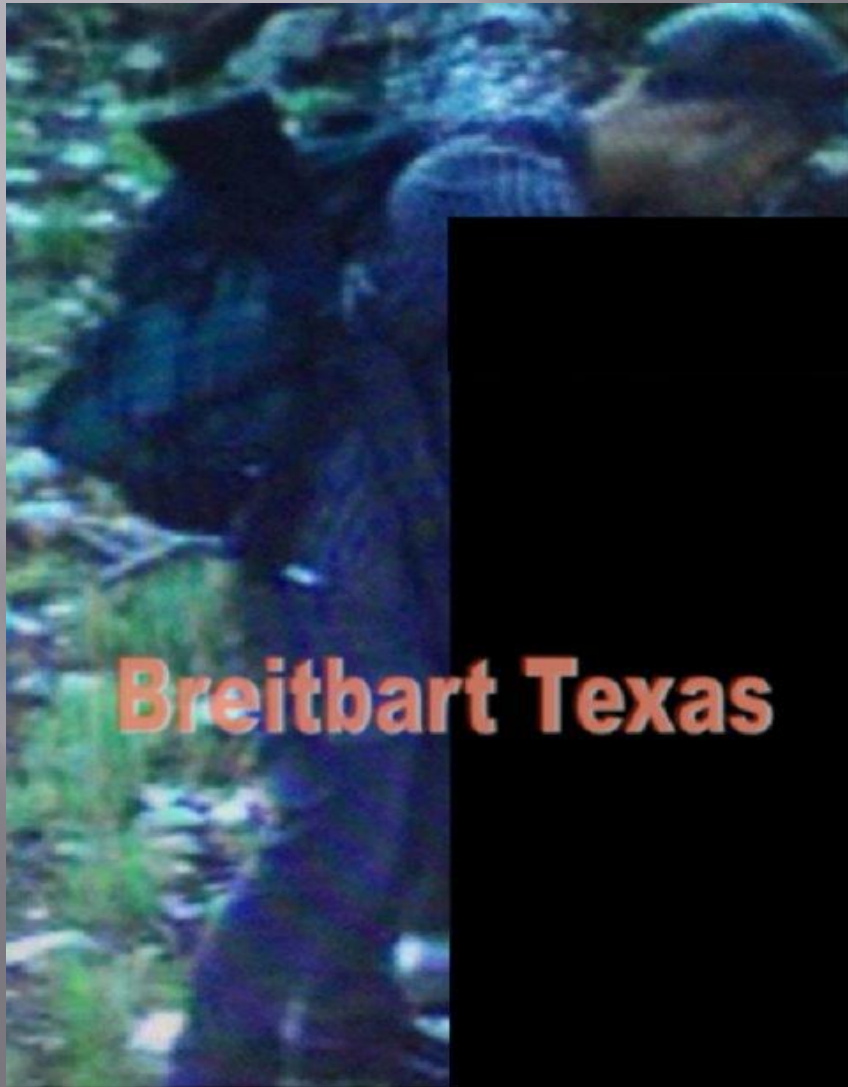
- ▣ Deported criminal alien 2X
- ▣ August 2013 Gil Gaxiola brutally assaults female NPS employee at Chiricahua National Monument.
- ▣ Arrested and later convicted of attempted homicide
- ▣ During trial Detectives introduce buckeye camera image of Gaxiola seven days prior to assault and in close proximity to where assault occurred



Buckeye Surveillance Network Highlights



Buckeye Surveillance Network Highlights



Closing Comments

- ▣ Buckeye technology has proven to be an invaluable asset to enhancing border security
- ▣ Provides immediate actionable intelligence (who, what, when, and where)
- ▣ Unlike traditional surveillance systems, is discreet, easily deployed in any terrain environment, low maintenance, and provides 24 hour/7 day a week surveillance without interruption.
- ▣ Up to 250 cameras can be operated on a single cell base
- ▣ No permanent effects on landscape (deployed as needed)